

# In Motion...

A NEWSLETTER PROMOTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SMTC'S BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN

## What is the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan? Why is it Being Conducted?

In support of Federal legislation (The Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)) that states that "Bicyclists and pedestrians shall be given due consideration in the comprehensive transportation plans developed by each metropolitan planning organization," the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) has begun work on a two-year study/project that will ultimately result in the development of a **Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan** for Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse. The primary goals of this Plan are to preserve and enhance the bicycling and pedestrian network; and to improve the safety, attractiveness, and overall viability of cycling and walking as legitimate transportation alternatives to the transportation system in the Greater Syracuse area.

The SMTC has taken the lead role in the sponsorship of this project. The project will be completed utilizing the SMTC professional staff, with support, input and participation from SMTC's member agencies, as well as citizens who will be represented through the Study Advisory Committee (SAC), and a separate

stakeholders group. The study area will encompass all of Onondaga County, including the City of Syracuse. The project, commencing during the 2001-2002 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) year, is to be completed over the course of two years, and will include the following tasks: (1) evaluating and summarizing existing bicycle and pedestrian plans; (2) data compilation and summary; (3) gathering of existing conditions/creation of a suitability map; (4) identifying known and perceived bicycle and pedestrian issues; and (5) developing recommendations and action items that seek to improve the community's bicycle and pedestrian environment. All tasks will ultimately be compiled and organized into a formal **Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan** document, expected to be presented in September 2003.

For more information, contact Danielle Zebley at (315) 422-5716.

## SMTC to Identify Pedestrian Facilities in Onondaga County

As part of the data compilation portion of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the SMTC will be identifying the current bicycle and pedestrian system and facilities in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area. This includes the inventory of pedestrian facilities throughout Onondaga County. In the next few months, the SMTC will be contacting the Towns and Villages within the County to assist with a generalized sidewalk inventory through an interactive mapping activity. The SMTC will provide the Towns and Villages with a map, and ask each municipality to note where their sidewalks

*(continued on reverse side)*

*The identification and promotion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities (as shown here along the Syracuse Inner Harbor creekwalk) will be a significant component of the SMTC project.*



## SMTC Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

### GOALS

1. To encourage the use of bicycling and walking as legitimate modes of transportation.
2. To improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.
3. To educate bicyclists, pedestrians, motorists, law enforcement officers, and others regarding traffic laws and safety measures.
4. To promote the improvement of travel and tourism, as well as business opportunities along bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
5. To encourage planners and municipalities to develop bicycle and pedestrian resources.
6. To develop a methodology for tracking bicycle and pedestrian improvements.



## Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, February 7, 2002  
6:30 P.M.

Le Moyne Manor  
629 Old Liverpool Rd., Liverpool, N.Y.

This first public meeting will provide the opportunity for the SMTC to formally present the project to the public. The meeting will include an explanation on the study's Scope of Work, as well as the presentation of the goals, objectives and purpose of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Following the formal portion of the meeting, the public will be encouraged to ask questions, and comment on existing bicycle and pedestrian conditions, issues and concerns.

## Pedestrian Facilities

*(continued from front side)*

exist. The data obtained will be summarized and included as part of the Final Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan document. This is just one of many ways that Towns and Villages will be able to participate in this planning project.

Also, as part of the data compilation portion of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the SMTC will be compiling a bicycle and pedestrian awareness survey. To be distributed throughout Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse, the survey will assess residents' knowledge of bicycle and pedestrian safety. The SMTC will be developing this survey over the next several months.

## Citizen Volunteers Assist SMTC With Bicycle Suitability Map

In its ongoing preparation of a Bicycle Suitability Map for Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse, the SMTC has been receiving help from citizen volunteers in rating selected road segments based on their suitability for individuals traveling by bicycle, primarily commuter cyclists.



Volunteer cyclists have been collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, such as posted speed limits; if shoulder stripes exist on the stretch of road being rated; if available space is favorable for riding; if sewer/drainage grates are present; if steep hills are present; the cyclists' general level (feeling) of comfort/safety on a given stretch of road; and any other additional comment that the cyclist feels is worth noting.

Through the data gathering efforts of volunteer cyclists and the information provided by local agencies, the SMTC will be developing a bicycle suitability map. This map will rate the streets on the existing road network as being 'good', 'fair', 'poor', etc. for commuter bicycling. This process **will not** result in the designation of particular bicycle routes, but will enable the general public to determine which roads are currently the most suitable for their bicycle travels.

"By looking at the resulting map, we will also be able to determine where the 'holes' exist in the current system and where to focus future efforts," said Danielle Zebley, Project Manager of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. "The Bicycle Suitability Map will serve as a first step and starting point towards accomplishing the goal of a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly environment for our area."

## In Motion...

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